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Addendum

MAIN PROGRAMME RECORD

OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS

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I. UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME

1. The year 1996 was an exciting one for the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme. The organization moved its headquarters from Geneva, Switzerland to Bonn, Germany in July and celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. A total of 3,242 UNV specialists and fieldworkers from 137 nations served in 140 countries. More than 600 UNV-identified specialists worked with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) during the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, there were 120 national eco-volunteers and hundreds of Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) and United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Services (UNISTAR) volunteers serving around the world. The organization increasingly directed its efforts towards poverty eradication, peace-building, democratization, and relief to development, while continuing to pursue classic, community-focused development work.

2. In the area of poverty eradication, a regional workshop on UNV contributions in sub-Saharan Africa was held in February 1996 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, with UNDP resident representatives/resident coordinators, government officials and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives. Results included requests from UNDP country offices for collaboration in this region. UNV specialists were increasingly utilized in support of UNDP poverty-related programmes, specifically in China, Kyrgystan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. UNV launched a number of poverty-related, community-based initiatives in Latin America, including projects with street children in Central America; with artisans in Ecuador; with populations around Sao Paulo, Brazil; and with the UNDP Participatory Development Programme in the Caribbean, notably in Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

3. UNV was also quite active in the area of peace-building and democratization. Through the assignment of 234 specialist volunteers, UNV continued to provide support to United Nations missions, including the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), the United Nations Mission to Haiti (UNMIH), the United Nations Observer Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) and the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). In addition, UNV selected and fielded 40 election logistics specialists and 605 election supervisors for OSCE for the September national elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was the first operation of UNV on such a significant scale in support of a regional organization. Sixty-five UNV specialists were also fielded as human rights monitors in Rwanda in connection with United Nations Centre for Human Rights (UNCHR) activities.

4. On the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, UNV organized, within the framework of the May 1996 session of the UNDP Executive Board, a special event involving a substantive discussion and debate on "Tackling the Root Causes of Conflict - Roles for Volunteers?" The event was chaired by the Administrator. On this occasion the Administrator also launched the book Volunteers against Conflict, written by UNV specialists and based on field experiences in humanitarian and peace-building missions.

5. In the area of relief to development, UNV specialists continued to be present at the local level in post-conflict situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, and Rwanda, extending United Nations system outreach to local populations in support of rehabilitation processes. Many UNV specialists were involved in quick-impact projects supported as an entry point to stimulating longer-term local development initiatives. For example, in Mozambique, UNV specialists and fieldworkers facilitated the rural resettlement of formerly displaced persons and demobilized soldiers in six provinces in cooperation with government services and a number of civil society organizations.

6. In a continuous effort to focus increasingly on the identity, role and direction of its work, UNV Strategy 2000 was finalized at the end of 1996. The document was enriched by considerable insights received from UNV partners within and outside the United Nations system. According to Strategy 2000, UNV will focus on responding to specific country needs, actively building partnerships and exploring volunteer response to issues of global concern identified in United Nations summits and conferences. The main areas of concentration will be urban development, environmental management and preventive/curative development. Implementation of Strategy 2000 will be built mainly upon lessons learned from various evaluations undertaken during the past few years.

II. SPECIAL UNIT FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

7. In 1996, the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) supported the implementation of activities consistent with the TCDC New Directions mandate approved by the High-Level Committee (HLC) on the Review of TCDC in 1995 and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Special emphasis was placed on the areas of priority approved by the HLC, such as trade and investment, macroeconomic policy development and coordination, poverty eradication and management of the environment. These areas accord with the objectives of sustainable human development (SHD). In 1996 the Special Unit for TCDC issued a publication entitled TCDC and Sustainable Human Development, which provided specific examples of the linkage between TCDC and SHD.

8. In the area of poverty eradication, important emphasis was placed on the implementation of the 237 agreements concluded among the participants in the capacity and needs-matching exercise on credit and rural poverty, held in Bangladesh in September 1994. At present, about one third of the agreements have been implemented, while others are in various stages of preparation. The Special Unit has provided follow-up support, including funds, to facilitate a higher rate of implementation of the agreements.

9. As a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), support was provided to several Latin American countries in exchanging experiences of successful poverty eradication programmes. In collaboration with the Latin American Economic System (SELA), efforts were made to stimulate the development of small-scale enterprises through an analysis of the opportunities offered by the various integration arrangements in the region. The Special Unit is

monitoring follow-up activities by the countries concerned to translate the knowledge gained into concrete action in establishing small businesses.

10. With respect to management of the environment, support of an institutional nature was continued for the International Network on Small HydroPower based in Hangzhou, China. The network has been successful in pooling the resources of the main regional energy institutions in Africa, Latin America and Asia. It serves as an expert facility and repository of technical information relating to the sustainable development of small hydropower operations as a viable and environmentally friendly alternative source of energy, particularly in rural areas of developing countries. The E-7 Network of Expertise, a consortium of the major energy authorities of the G-7 industrialized countries, has undertaken to share its technical know-how on energy development with the network.

11. Support was also provided to facilitate the establishment of a network of regional groups focusing on the exchange of technical information, policies, practices and facilities relating to bio-systematics. This involves the identification and classification of insects, nematodes and micro-organisms in the Pacific Islands (PACINET), East Asia (ASEANET) and East Africa (EAFRINET), under a technical cooperation arrangement with BIO-Net International. BIO-Net links institutions specialized in bio-systematics located for the most part in developed countries. The effective use of bio-systematics has important implications not only in the management of a country's species, but also in the development of agriculture and food production.

12. Also related to the environment, important support was provided to the preparatory activities leading up to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). A monograph on "Best Practices" in urban management was compiled. It served as background documentation to a series of regional meetings in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

13. With respect to sustainable development in the context of multiple sectors, support was continued for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The first draft of the Directory of Experts and Institutions of Small Island Developing States, consisting of four volumes, was prepared and made available to SIDS through the UNDP country offices and to relevant United Nations agencies and other concerned institutions. This information has also been made available via the Internet through the TCDC Information Referral System (INRES). In supporting the formulation of a SIDS Technical Assistance Programme (SIDSTAP), assessments of technical cooperation priorities under the 14 chapters of the Programme of Action were undertaken covering SIDS in the Caribbean and Africa. Future support will concentrate on mobilizing resources and directing funding of specific activities arising from these assessments as well as from the joint identification of development priorities with SIDS in the Pacific Islands. Support was also provided to furthering the development of the SIDS Information Network (SIDSNet) by updating the feasibility study which produced four options for its future development. These options will be examined and implemented in the context of a SIDSNet pilot exercise in 1997.

14. In the area of macroeconomic policy development and coordination, support was provided to the Third World Network. This network helps developing

countries disseminate and analyse information relating to the post-Uruguay Round of trade talks and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO). These activities have important implications for trade and larger social and economic development in the context of a global economy. Important support was also provided to the Group of 77 and China with respect to the preparatory process for the convening of the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment held in Costa Rica in January 1997.

15. The Special Unit established a web site on the Internet and the TCDC/INRES database was expanded to cover information on the capacities of 3,400 institutions in 60 developing countries. Further work will take place in 1997 to develop INRES into a multidimensional database containing information on experts, best practices on priority areas identified and centres of excellence in the South.

16. While the overall TCDC programme was successfully implemented during 1996, failure to integrate systematically the TCDC modality into project implementation and the lack of effective operational integration between TCDC and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) were constraints to full realization of its potential.

17. Based on experience and in accord with recommendations in the report "New Directions for TCDC", the programme for 1997-1999 will adopt a more strategic orientation. It will focus on high-priority activities in trade, investment, macroeconomic policy, poverty eradication, environment, production and employment, which are likely to have a major impact on developing countries. The programme will also work towards closer operational integration between TCDC and ECDC and greater use of TCDC in programmes supported by the United Nations development system. Special emphasis will be placed on the compilation of best practices in critical priority areas identified with a view to replicating them in other developing countries.